

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

MARIA DE LA O, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBIN ARNOLD-WILLIAMS, et al.,  
Defendants.

NO. CV-04-0192-EFS

**ORDER ENTERING RULINGS  
FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2006,  
HEARING**

MARIA FERNANDEZ, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH  
SERVICES, et al.,  
Defendants.

[NO. CV-05-0280-EFS]

A Pretrial Conference was held in the above-captioned matter on November 2, 2006. Counsel appeared on behalf of the parties, as reflected in the hearing Minutes (Ct. Rec. 491). Before the Court were several motions: (1) Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Declaring RCW 74.15.030, 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0450, 388-296-0520 Unconstitutional (Ct. Rec. 116); (2) State Defendants' Cross Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Ct. Rec. 126); (3)

1 Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction of RCW 74.15.030(7),  
2 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0250(1), 388-295-  
3 0450(2), 388-296-0520(8) (Ct. Rec. 198); (4) State Defendants' Motion for  
4 Partial Summary Judgment Dismissing Plaintiffs' Requests for Permanent  
5 Injunctive Relief (Ct. Rec. 254); (5) Plaintiffs' Motion for Voluntary  
6 Dismissal of Three Injunctive Relief Claims (Ct. Rec. 403), and (6) State  
7 Defendants' Second Motion for Summary Judgment (Ct. Rec. 249). After  
8 reviewing the submitted materials and relevant legal authority and  
9 hearing oral argument, the Court is fully informed; this Order serves to  
10 supplement and memorialize the Court's oral rulings and to enter  
11 decisions on issues that were taken under advisement.

#### 12 **I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

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16 <sup>1</sup> In ruling on the motions for summary judgment, the Court  
17 considered the facts and all reasonable inferences therefrom as contained  
18 in the submitted affidavits, declarations, exhibits, and depositions, in  
19 the light most favorable to the party opposing the motion. See *United*  
20 *States v. Diebold, Inc.*, 369 U.S. 654, 655 (1972) (*per curiam*). The  
21 following factual recitation, which contains the barest skeletal facts,  
22 was created utilizing this standard. Many more facts will be added in  
23 conjunction with the analysis of particular issues, thereby adding to  
24 this brief factual background. A recitation here of all of the pertinent  
25 facts would make little sense without the context provided by the  
26 subsequent analysis.

1 Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)  
2 Division of Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL)<sup>2</sup> administers the  
3 federally-funded Working Connections Child Care Program and Seasonal  
4 Child Care Program, which pays day care centers for child care services  
5 for eligible families. On May 7 and 8, 2002, DSHS Division of Fraud  
6 Investigations (DFI) teamed with INS agents and visited forty-seven  
7 Mattawa family child care home<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter, "day care") providers with  
8 administrative subpoenas and entered these day cares to obtain  
9 immigration-related documents and day care records; similar contacts  
10 were made earlier to three Mattawa day cares in September 2001. During  
11 both the September 2001 and May 2002 contacts, the subpoena duces teca,  
12 which were written in English, required production of the books and  
13 records required to be kept by the providers. (Ct. Rec. 129-1 Exs. A &  
14 B.) The DFI/INS team informed the providers that they were there to  
15 obtain documents and either briefly showed them the subpoena duces tecum  
16 or simply advised the providers that they had such.<sup>4</sup> The providers were

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18 <sup>2</sup> On July 1, 2006, responsibility for the licensing and inspection  
19 of family child care homes was transferred to the Department of Early  
20 Learning (DEL). RCW 43.215 *et seq.*

21 <sup>3</sup> These day cares are operated within the providers' home.

22 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs provided Declarations (Ct. Recs. 344-359, which were  
23 later supplemented for "translation" purposes by Ct. Recs. 449-469 & 471-  
24 75) describing the events that occurred during the "visit" from their  
25 perspective. The general consensus is that the "investigators" did not  
26 fully identify themselves or explain the purpose of their visit. The  
ORDER ~ 3

1 asked questions about citizenship and immigration status and were  
2 required to provide documentation establishing immigration status of  
3 themselves, their husbands, their children, and/or their assistants. The  
4 DFI/INS team took this documentation with them, along with the original  
5 day care records that are required to be kept by statute and regulation.  
6 The original immigration/citizenship documents were returned to the  
7 providers within days to a couple weeks; however, copies, not originals,  
8 of the day care records were returned to the providers within days to a  
9 couple months. Many providers still contend they are missing some of the  
10 records that were taken; the DFI/INS teams did not take an inventory of  
11 the original records prior to taking them.

12 The current lawsuit is composed of two consolidated class actions  
13 brought by the day care providers against DSHS, DSHS employees, and city  
14 officials, alleging in pertinent part that the events on May 7 and 8,  
15 2002, violated the providers' Fourth Amendment right to be free from  
16 unreasonable searches and seizures. Plaintiffs also allege a number of  
17 Washington's child care statutes and regulations are unconstitutional due  
18 to their overbreadth. The instant motions before the Court primarily  
19 concern whether these Washington statutes and regulations are  
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21 investigators advised that they had a court order to obtain all requested  
22 documents and demanded first to seek and take immigration/citizenship  
23 related documents and then obtained the day care records. The  
24 investigators took the originals, generally sending copies of these  
25 documents within one to three weeks after the visit, but not returning  
26 the originals.

1 constitutional and whether Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and  
2 injunctive relief.

## 3 II. MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

### 4 A. Standard

5 Summary judgment is appropriate where the documentary evidence  
6 produced by the parties permits only one conclusion. *Anderson v. Liberty*  
7 *Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 251-252 (1986). The party seeking summary  
8 judgment must demonstrate there is an absence of disputed issues of  
9 material fact to be entitled to judgment as a matter of law. FED. R. CIV.  
10 PROC. 56(c). In other words, the moving party has the burden of showing  
11 no reasonable trier of fact could find other than for the moving party.  
12 *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 325 (1986). "A material issue  
13 of fact is one that affects the outcome of the litigation and requires  
14 a trial to resolve the parties' differing versions of the truth." *Lynn*  
15 *v. Sheet Metal Worker's Intern. Ass'n*, 804 F.2d 1472, 1483 (9th Cir.  
16 1986) (quoting *Admiralty Fund v. Hugh Johnson & Co.*, 677 F.2d 1301, 1306  
17 (9th Cir. 1982)). The court is to view the facts and draw inferences in  
18 the manner most favorable to the non-moving party. *Anderson*, 477 U.S.  
19 at 255; *Chaffin v. United States*, 176 F.3d 1208, 1213 (9th Cir. 1999).

20 A burden is also on the party opposing summary judgment to provide  
21 sufficient evidence supporting his claims to establish a genuine issue  
22 of material fact for trial. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252; *Chaffin*, 186 F.3d  
23 at 1213. "[A] mere 'scintilla' of evidence will be insufficient to  
24 defeat a properly supported motion for summary judgment; instead, the  
25 nonmoving party must introduce some 'significant probative evidence  
26 tending to support the complaint.'" *Fazio v. City & County of San*

1 *Francisco*, 125 F.3d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1997) (quoting *Anderson*, 477  
2 U.S. at 249, 252).

3 **B. Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Declaring RCW**  
4 **74.15.030, 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-**  
5 **0450, 388-296-0520 Unconstitutional (Ct. Rec. 116) AND State**  
6 **Defendants' Cross Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Ct. Rec. 126)**

7 Recognizing that the health, safety, and well-being of children who  
8 are receiving care away from their home is critical, the Washington  
9 Legislature enacted statutes governing the licensing and operation of  
10 child care facilities. RCW 74.15.010(1). Plaintiffs acknowledge this  
11 significant public interest but ask the Court to declare the following  
12 Washington child care statutes and regulations as facially violative of  
13 the Fourth Amendment due to their overbreadth as they authorize entries  
14 into homes of day care providers without restriction as to time, scope,  
15 place, or manner: RCW 74.15.030, 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), and  
16 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0450 and 388-296-0520 (hereinafter "Washington  
17 child care regulatory scheme").<sup>5</sup> If the Court so agrees, Plaintiffs ask

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18 <sup>5</sup> WAC 388-296-0450 and 388-296-0520 (2005) replaced WAC 388-155-080  
19 and 388-155-090 (2001), respectively. Then, in 2006, as a result of the  
20 transfer of responsibility from DSHS to DEL, WAC 388-296-0450 was  
21 replaced by WAC 170-296-0450, while WAC 388-296-0520 was replaced by WAC  
22 170-296-0520. The changes in the renumbering of the WACs have no impact  
23 as to their constitutionality. The Court will utilize the WAC cites as  
24 used by the parties in their pleadings, i.e. WAC 388-296-0450 and 388-  
25 296-0520 (2005).  
26

1 the Court to enjoin the State of Washington from conducting warrantless  
2 inspections of child care homes.

3 In response and through their own motion, State Defendants ask for  
4 an order granting partial summary judgment dismissing Plaintiffs' claims  
5 that Washington's child care regulatory scheme violates the Fourth  
6 Amendment, arguing the statutes and regulations are constitutional and  
7 Plaintiffs do not have standing to bring many of these facial challenges.  
8 In addition, State Defendants move for partial summary judgment on the  
9 grounds that Plaintiffs did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy  
10 in the business records inspected and, therefore, the inspection of the  
11 records did not constitute a search and seizure under the Constitution.  
12 In the alternative, State Defendants argue Plaintiffs consented to the  
13 search and seizure conducted within their pervasively-regulated business.

14 Many of the issues are interrelated; accordingly, the Court has  
15 selected the following framework to analyze and discuss these issues:  
16 first, the Court addresses State Defendants' argument that a warrant was  
17 not required by analyzing whether a search or seizure occurred and  
18 whether Plaintiffs consented to such; then, the Court analyzes whether  
19 an exception to the warrant requirement applies. The Court addresses the  
20 constitutionality of Washington's child care regulatory scheme in the  
21 course of analyzing the pervasively-regulated business exception to the  
22 warrant requirement.

23 1. Fourth Amendment

24 The following protections provided by the Fourth Amendment are made  
25 applicable to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment:

26 The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses,  
papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and

1 seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue,  
2 but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and  
3 particularly describing the place to be searched, and the  
persons or things to be seized.

4 U.S. Const. amend. IV; *Katz v. United States*, 389 U.S. 347, 357 (1967);  
5 *Ker v. California*, 374 U.S. 23, 30 (1963). Per its terms, the Fourth  
6 Amendment generally requires a warrant to be obtained before a search or  
7 seizure occurs. This protection against unreasonable searches and  
8 seizures extends to commercial premises, but is most highly protected in  
9 the context of homes. *Donovan v. Dewey*, 452 U.S. at 598 (1981).

10 2. Search

11 State Defendants argue they did not conduct a search by entering the  
12 day care premises because the investigators came to the day cares during  
13 usual business hours and were invited into the residence by the  
14 providers. A search occurs "when an expectation of privacy that society  
15 is prepared to consider reasonable is infringed." *Soldal v. Cook County*,  
16 506 U.S. 56, 63 (1992) (quoting *United States v. Jacobsen*, 466 U.S. 109,  
17 113 (1984)). The Supreme Court has emphasized that "at the very core"  
18 of the Fourth Amendment "stands the right of a man to retreat into his  
19 own home." *Id.* at 61 (quoting *Silverman v. United States*, 365 U.S. 505,  
20 511 (1961) (internal citations omitted)). Accordingly, a search of a  
21 private home without a warrant is presumptively unreasonable. *Rush v.*  
22 *Obledo*, 756 F.2d 713, 717 (9th Cir. 1985).

23 The providers operated day cares in their homes; accordingly, it was  
24 both a commercial venture and a private residence. A reasonable provider  
25 would be aware there were state regulations governing the operation and  
26 condition of her home; nevertheless:



1 the mere fact that a business is carried on in the home for  
2 certain hours does not remove the home from Fourth Amendment  
3 protection. The decisions of the Supreme Court firmly  
4 establish "that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against  
unreasonable searches applies to administrative inspections of  
private commercial property."

5 *Rush*, 756 F.2d at 717 (quoting *Donovan v. Dewey*, 452 U.S. 594, 598  
6 (1981)).

7 State Defendants rely upon the Supreme Court decision in *Wyman*,  
8 *Commissioner of New York Department of Social Services v. James*, 400 U.S.  
9 309, 316 (1971), and the Ninth Circuit's recent decision in *Sanchez v.*  
10 *San Diego*, 464 F.3d 916 (9th Cir. 2006), to argue that the entries by the  
11 inspectors were not searches. In *Sanchez*, the Ninth Circuit relied upon  
12 *Wyman*<sup>6</sup> to determine that a home visit for welfare verification purposes  
13 was not a search because the home visit only occurred if the applicant  
14 consents and there was no penalty for refusing consent - other than  
15 denial of benefits. *Id.* at 920-23. The Ninth Circuit then went on to  
16 find that even if the home visits are searches, such visits are  
17 reasonable. *Id.* at 923-35.

18 Although at first glance *Wyman* and *Sanchez* appear to control, given  
19 that the usual penalty for refusing a day care inspection is revocation  
20 of a license, a non-criminal penalty, the Court finds the facts of this  
21 case are sufficiently different so that *Wyman* and *Sanchez* are not

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22 <sup>6</sup> In *Wyman*, a beneficiary of child welfare refused a home visit by  
23 a caseworker and thus her benefits were terminated pursuant to the New  
24 York statutory scheme. The question before the Supreme Court was whether  
25 it was unconstitutional to terminate child welfare benefits based simply  
26 on the mother's refusal to permit the home inspection.

1 controlling. First, in *Wyman*, the Supreme Court specifically highlighted  
2 that its "no search" decision was based on the fact that the caseworker  
3 never entered the home; rather, the individual seeking welfare benefits  
4 denied a home inspection outright. 400 U.S. at 317-18. Second, the  
5 Supreme Court in *Wyman* stated there was no allegation of "[f]orcible  
6 entry or entry under false pretenses or visitation outside working hours  
7 or snooping in the home . . .," *id.* at 321, and the home visit did "not  
8 deal with crime or with the actual or suspected perpetrators of crime.  
9 The caseworker is not a sleuth but rather, we trust, is a friend to one  
10 in need." *Id.* at 323. Further, the Court specifically noted:

11 Our holding today does not mean, of course, that a termination  
12 of benefits upon refusal of a home visit is to be upheld  
13 against constitutional challenge under all conceivable  
14 circumstances. The early morning mass raid upon homes of  
welfare recipients is not unknown. But that is not this case.  
Facts of that kind present another case for another day.

15 *Id.* at 326. The facts in *Sanchez* were similar to those in *Wyman*.

16 Here, the inspectors did enter the homes. Further, when the  
17 evidence is viewed in Plaintiffs' favor, there is evidence that entry was  
18 gained by advising the Plaintiffs that the inspectors had a court order  
19 to enter the home and seize documents, which could be viewed as false  
20 pretenses. In addition, caseworkers were not part of the visit, but  
21 rather the individuals conducting the visits were from DFI and INS, who  
22 were not "friends" but rather "sleuths" under these circumstances.  
23 Accordingly, the Court finds, based on the facts as presented by  
24 Plaintiffs, that *Wyman* and *Sanchez* do not apply. The providers had a  
25 reasonable expectation of privacy in their residence, notwithstanding its  
26 use as a day care, and this right was infringed by the entry of the  
inspectors. Accordingly, the Court finds a search occurred.

1 State Defendants argue, even if a search occurred, Plaintiffs  
2 consented to the search and therefore entry without a warrant was  
3 justified. An individual may waive her Fourth Amendment right by  
4 voluntarily consenting to a search through words, gesture, or conduct.  
5 *United States v. Griffin*, 530 F.2d 739, 742 (7th Cir. 1976). In  
6 determining whether consent was voluntary, the court considers the  
7 totality of the circumstances. *Id.* One factor to consider is whether  
8 there was coercion, either physical or psychological. *Id.* "Subtle  
9 coercion, in the form of an assertion of authority or color of office by  
10 the law enforcement officers may make what appears to be a voluntary act  
11 an involuntary act." *Id.* Based on the current record, the Court finds  
12 genuine issues of material fact exist as to whether Plaintiffs consented  
13 to the search.

14 For the above reasons, Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment is  
15 **denied in part**; i.e. a search occurred because Plaintiffs had a  
16 reasonable expectation of privacy in their homes and genuine issues of  
17 material fact exist as to whether Plaintiffs' consented to the search.

### 18 3. Seizure

19 The issue of seizure<sup>7</sup> can be analyzed into two parts: (1) whether  
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21 <sup>7</sup> A "seizure" of property occurs when "there is some meaningful  
22 interference with an individual's possessory interests in that property."  
23 *Soldal v. Cook County*, 506 U.S. 56, 63 (1992) (quoting *United States v.*  
24 *Jacobsen*, 466 U.S. 109, 113 (1984)). The individual must demonstrate a  
25 legitimate expectation of privacy in the items seized. *Rakas v.*  
26 *Illinois*, 439 U.S. 128, 143-44 n.12 (1978).

1 Plaintiffs had a legitimate expectation of privacy in the day care  
2 records<sup>8</sup> and (2) whether Plaintiffs had a legitimate expectation of  
3 privacy in the non-day care records taken. State Defendants are not  
4 challenging Plaintiffs' legitimate expectation of privacy in non-day care  
5 records. Therefore, the dispute centers around whether Plaintiffs had  
6 a legitimate expectation of privacy in the day care records that they  
7 were required to keep by regulation.

8 In making this determination, the Court finds the analysis in *United*  
9 *States v. Blue Diamond Coal Co.*, 667 F.2d 510 (6th Cir. 1981), helpful.  
10 *Blue Diamond Coal Co.* involved a challenge to the confiscation of records  
11 that the mining company was required by statute to maintain. In that  
12 circumstance, the company moved to suppress the records taken by the  
13 federal mine inspection officials from the mine premises, arguing that  
14 a warrant should have been obtained. *Id.* at 515. The Sixth Circuit  
15 recognized that the coal mine operator "has at least some interest in  
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17 <sup>8</sup> The providers were required to maintain the following records:  
18 the name, address, and telephone numbers of the children in their care,  
19 WAC 388-155-470 (2001); medical and health data related to each child,  
20 WAC 388-155-470 (2001); attendance records and invoices for state paid  
21 children for at least five years, WAC 388-155-460(5) (2001); daily  
22 attendance records, WAC 388-155-460(1) (2001); fire evacuation drill  
23 records for the last twelve months, WAC 388-155-460(3) (2001); and  
24 battery powered smoke detector test records for the last twelve months,  
25 WAC 388-1550460(4) (2001).  
26

1 having the record books on the premises" and that the records were not  
2 only of "interest or importance" to the government, but the mining  
3 company had an interest in their records as well. *Id.* at 518-20.  
4 Accordingly, the Sixth Circuit determined it was not proper for the mine  
5 inspector to remove the records absent specific consent or an  
6 administrative warrant and therefore a seizure occurred; however, the  
7 Sixth Circuit went on to hold that suppression was not necessary because  
8 the seizure was not unreasonable. *Id.* at 519-20. *See also Brock v.*  
9 *Emerson Elec. Co.*, 834 F.2d 994, 996 (11th Cir. 1987); *Golden Day Schs.,*  
10 *Inc. v. Pirillo*, 118 F. Supp. 2d 1037, 1045 (C.D. Cal. 2000).

11 As discussed in more detail below, Washington's child care  
12 regulatory scheme allowed DSHS to "inspect" the day care records. The  
13 regulations state nothing about State Defendants being able to take the  
14 original records from the house. *C.f. Reynaud v. Superior Court*, 138  
15 Cal. App. 3d 1, 6 (1982) (finding it was not a search or seizure for the  
16 state's fraud unit to obtain records from a third-party). In addition,  
17 unlike the regulation in *Murphy v. Washington*, 115 Wash. App. 297, 307-08  
18 (2003), which specifically stated that the pharmacy records were subject  
19 to inspection by law enforcement, the Washington childcare regulatory  
20 regulations do not state that the records are to be open for inspection  
21 by law enforcement in order to investigate criminal activity.  
22 Furthermore, providing DSHS or DFI with the authority to take original  
23 records is inconsistent with the requirement that a day care provider  
24 maintain such records onsite. WAC 388-296-0520(8). Therefore, even  
25 though these records are subject to inspection, the Court finds the  
26 providers had a legitimate expectation of privacy in having the records

1 stay on the premises. See *Soldal v. Cook County*, 506 U.S. 56, 69 (1992)  
2 ("What matters is the intrusion on the people's security from  
3 governmental interference. Therefore, the right against unreasonable  
4 seizures would be no less transgressed if the seizure of the house was  
5 undertaken to collect evidence, verify compliance with a housing  
6 regulation, . . . , or on a whim, for no reason at all.")

7 State Defendants also argue the taking of the original child care  
8 records was lawful because the investigators had administrative subpoena  
9 duces teca. However, these subpoena duces teca merely required the  
10 providers to "appear before a duly authorized representative of [DSHS  
11 DFI] on May [7, 8], 2002, and then and there produce all books of account  
12 pertaining to" the child care records." (Ct. Rec. 129-1 Ex. B.) The  
13 language of the subpoena did not provide the investigators with the  
14 authority to take these records off of the premises. Furthermore, the  
15 purpose and scope of an administrative subpoena differs from a judicial  
16 warrant. See *In re Grand Jury Subpoenas Dated December 10, 1987, Does  
17 I Through IV v. United States*, 926 F.2d 847 (9th Cir. 1991); *Subpoena  
18 Duces Tecum v. Bailey*, 228 F.3d 341 (4th Cir. 2000); *In re Nwamu*, 421 F.  
19 Supp. 1361, 1365 (D.C.N.Y. 1976). "Because a subpoena duces tecum leads  
20 to 'the compulsory production of private papers,' a person served with  
21 a subpoena duces tecum is entitled to the Fourth Amendment's protection  
22 against unreasonableness." *Bailey*, 228 F.3d at 347 (quoting *Hale v.  
23 Henkel*, 201 U.S. 43, 76 (1906). An administrative subpoena must be  
24 sufficiently limited in scope, relevant in purpose, and specific in  
25 directive in order for it to satisfy the Fourth Amendment's  
26 reasonableness requirement. *Id.* at 347. While a warrant is a judicial

1 authorization allowing law enforcement to search or seize persons or  
2 things without prior notice, a subpoena commences an adversary process,  
3 which includes the right to challenge it in court before complying with  
4 its demands. *Id.* at 348.

5 When the facts are viewed in Plaintiffs' favor, the providers were  
6 advised by the investigators that they had a court order (as "subpoena  
7 duces tecum" is translated into Spanish) to enter the house and obtain  
8 immigration and day care records. (Ct. Recs. 344-59, 449-69, & 471-75.)  
9 The provider generally was not shown the document and, even if it was  
10 shown to the provider, the subpoena was written in English and no  
11 translation of the document was provided. *Id.* Furthermore, the  
12 providers were not advised that they had the ability to challenge the  
13 subpoena. *Id.* Based on these facts, the investigators utilized the  
14 subpoena as a judicial warrant. Accordingly, there are genuine issues  
15 of material fact surrounding the serving of the subpoena duces teca and  
16 whether Plaintiffs consented to the investigators taking the original  
17 documents with them; Defendants' motion is **denied in part.**

18 4. Pervasively-Regulated Business

19 Regardless of whether the investigators' conduct constituted a  
20 search and/or seizure, State Defendants maintain such conduct was  
21 authorized under the pervasively-regulated business exception to the  
22 warrant requirement. An exception to the general warrant requirement  
23 exists for "pervasively regulated businesses." *New York v. Burger*, 482  
24 U.S. 691, 699 (1987). So long as the administrative search meets a  
25 standard of reasonableness, administrative searches of a pervasively-  
26 regulated business are one of the limited number of exceptions to the

1 warrant requirement. *United States v. 4,432 Mastercases of Cigarettes*,  
2 448 F.3d 1168, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006). The underlying rationale for not  
3 requiring a warrant for an administrative search of a pervasively-  
4 regulated business is that a reasonable expectation of privacy does not  
5 exist if the restrictions on the business would advise the operator that  
6 his property will be subject to periodic inspections for specific  
7 purposes. *Burger*, 482 U.S. at 700 & 702; *Donovan v. Dewey*, 452 U.S. 594,  
8 600 (1981).

9 The parties agree Washington's child care system is a pervasively-  
10 regulated industry, and such a finding is supported by the Ninth  
11 Circuit's decision in *Rush v. Obledo*, 756 F.2d 713, 717 (9th Cir. 1985).  
12 See also *Golden Day Schs., Inc. v. Pirillo*, 118 F. Supp. 2d 1037, 1042  
13 (C.D. Cal. 2000). Therefore, in order to determine whether a warrantless  
14 inspection of a Washington family child care home is reasonable, the  
15 Court must apply the three-pronged test set forth by the Supreme Court  
16 in *Burger*: (1) "there must be a 'substantial' government interest that  
17 informs the regulatory scheme pursuant to which the inspection is made,"  
18 (2) "the warrantless inspections must be 'necessary to further [the]  
19 regulatory scheme,'" and (3) "the regulatory statute must perform the two  
20 basic functions of a warrant: [a] it must advise the owner of the  
21 commercial premises that the search is being made pursuant to the law and  
22 has a properly defined scope, and [b] it must limit the discretion of the  
23 inspecting officers." 482 U.S. at 702-03 (citing *Donovan*, 452 U.S. at  
24 600). The Supreme Court further refined this last prong, stating:

25 To perform this first function, the statute must be  
26 "sufficiently comprehensive and defined that the owner of  
commercial property cannot help but be aware that his property  
will be subject to periodic inspections undertaken for specific



1 purposes." In addition, in defining how a statute limits the  
 2 discretion of the inspectors, we have observed that it must be  
 "carefully limited in time, place, and scope."

3 *Id.* at 703 (citations omitted).

4 For purposes of these motions, Plaintiffs do not dispute the first  
 5 two requirements and challenge only the third requirement - arguing that  
 6 the seven-targeted Washington statutes and regulations contain inadequate  
 7 time, place, and scope limitations and that the investigation was not to  
 8 ensure compliance with administrative regulations but to compile evidence  
 9 of criminal activity in order to prosecute Latina day care providers.  
 10 The Court analyzes each of the challenged statutes and regulations in  
 11 turn to determine if they serve these two basic warrant functions in  
 12 order to assess whether it is constitutional to base a search and seizure  
 13 on the statute or regulation without a warrant.

14 a. RCW 74.15.030

15 Section 74.15.030, which is entitled, "Powers and duties of  
 16 secretary," provides, in pertinent part:

17 The secretary shall have the power and it shall be the  
 18 secretary's duty:

19 (7) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or  
 20 not there is compliance with chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW  
 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted hereunder.

21 The Court agrees with State Defendants that the Washington  
 22 legislature did not intend for this statute to define the boundaries of  
 23 the investigative powers of the secretary; however, *Burger* and *Rush v.*  
 24 *Obledo*, 756 F.2d 713 (9th Cir. 1985), require a statute providing  
 25 investigatory power to set appropriate limits. The statute only provides  
 26 a scope limit, i.e. the inspection is to only determine whether there is  
 compliance with 74.15 RCW and the requirements adopted thereunder; the

1 statute is not "carefully limited in time [and] place . . . ." *Burger*,  
2 482 U.S. at 703. Therefore, the Court finds, consistent with *Rush* that  
3 this statute is unconstitutional, absent a limiting statute or  
4 regulation. As set forth below, the Court finds there currently is no  
5 statute or regulation that sufficiently restricts RCW 74.15.030 and,  
6 therefore, subsection (7) of this statute is unconstitutional. *C.f.*  
7 *Burger*, 482 U.S. at 711-12. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' motion is **granted**  
8 **in part** and State Defendants' motion is **denied in part**.

9 b. RCW 74.15.050(2) & 74.15.060(1)

10 These statutes provide in pertinent part:

11 The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director  
12 of fire protection, shall have the power and it shall be his  
or her duty:

13 (2) To make or cause to be made such inspections and  
14 investigations of agencies, other than foster-family homes or  
child-placing agencies, as he or she deems necessary.

15 RCW 74.15.050(2), and:

16 The secretary of health shall have the power and it shall be  
his or her duty:

17 (1) To make or cause to be made such inspections and  
18 investigations of agencies, as may be deemed necessary.

19 RCW 74.15.060(1).

20 The Court agrees with State Defendants that Plaintiffs do not have  
21 standing to bring a facial challenge to these statutes. There is no  
22 evidence before the Court that Defendants used these statutes to conduct  
23 investigations of day cares or that there is any likelihood that they  
24 will do so. See *Virginia v. Am. Booksellers Ass'n*, 484 U.S. 383, 392-93  
25 (1988). Therefore, Plaintiffs' motion is **denied in part**, and Defendants'  
26 motion is **granted in part**.

1 c. RCW 74.15.080

2 Plaintiffs also argue RCW 74.15.080 is overbroad:

3 All agencies subject to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031  
4 shall accord the department of social and health services, the  
5 secretary of health, the chief of the Washington state patrol,  
6 and the director of fire protection, or their designees, the  
7 right of entrance and the privilege of access to and inspection  
8 of records for the purpose of determining whether or not there  
9 is compliance with the provisions of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW  
10 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted thereunder.

11 Similar to RCW 74.15.030(7), the Court finds this statute sets an  
12 appropriate "scope" limit; however, it fails to set either a time or  
13 place limit. State Defendants contend the term "agencies" imposes a time  
14 limit; the Court disagrees. Neither the definition of "agency"<sup>9</sup> nor  
15 other child care statutes or regulations support State Defendants'  
16 argument that a provider's home is a "family child care home" *only* when  
17 there are children other than the providers on the premises.  
18 Accordingly, the statutes and regulations fail to place a temporal  
19 restriction on DSHS inspections; as is confirmed by DEL Division of Child  
20 Care and Early Learning Director Rachel Langen's deposition testimony  
21 (Ct. Rec. 118-3 Ex. D p. 9 of dep.). Therefore, because RCW 74.15.080

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22 <sup>9</sup> "Agency" is defined as:

23 . . . any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation,  
24 or facility which receives children, expectant mothers, or  
25 persons with developmental disabilities for control, care, or  
26 maintenance outside their own homes, or which places, arranges  
the placement of, or assists in the placement of children,  
expectant mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities  
for foster care or placement of children for adoption, and  
shall include the following irrespective of whether there is  
compensation to the agency or to the children, expectant  
mothers or persons with developmental disabilities for services  
rendered . . . .

RCW 74.15.020(a).

ORDER ~ 19

1 fails to set either time or place limits, the Court finds this statute  
 2 fails to meet the third element to the pervasively-regulated business  
 3 exception to the warrant requirement. Accordingly, the Court holds that  
 4 it unconstitutionally provides an unrestricted right of entrance.

5 d. WAC 388-296-0450(2)

6 Washington Administration Code 388-296-0450 provides, in pertinent  
 7 part:

8 When will my license be denied, suspended or revoked?

9 (2) Refuse to allow our authorized staff and inspectors  
 10 requested information or access to your licensed space and  
 11 premises, child and program files, or staff and children in  
 care; . . . .

12 The Court finds Plaintiffs have standing to bring a facial challenge to  
 13 this regulation given that there is a likelihood that this regulation  
 14 would be used by the State Defendants in the event that access to the  
 15 requested information or premises was refused. See *Virginia v. Am.*  
 16 *Booksellers Ass'n*, 484 U.S. 383, 392-93 (1988). However, the Court finds  
 17 the regulation constitutional. This regulation does not set forth  
 18 inspection authority; but rather sets forth reasons why a license will  
 19 be denied, suspended, or revoked. Accordingly, the Court **denies in part**  
 20 Plaintiffs' motion and **grants in part** Defendants' motion.

21 e. WAC 388-296-0520(8)

22 Regulatory section 388-296-0520 states, in pertinent part:

23 How long must I keep child records and what am I required to  
 24 document while operating my business?

. . . .

25 (8) You must maintain all records and reports  
 26 required by these regulations in an up-to-date  
 manner at the facility. *The records and reports are*  
*subject to inspection and you must allow us access*

1           to them at the time we request them.

2 (Emphasis added.) Again, the Court finds this regulation fails to  
3 "carefully limit[ ] in time [and] place . . ." the seizure. See *Burger*,  
4 482 U.S. at 703. Subsection (8) sufficiently identifies what records and  
5 reports are subject to inspection. In addition, the regulation discusses  
6 that such records must be kept at the facility. However, the regulation  
7 does not discuss what area of the premises are subject to inspection,  
8 only that the records and reports are subject to inspection.  
9 Furthermore, the regulation sets absolutely no time restriction, such as  
10 during "business hours." Given the wording of the regulation and as  
11 confirmed by Director Langen, the DSHS inspectors could show up at the  
12 providers' residence/facility at 9 p.m. at night and request to see the  
13 required records and reports. The Court concludes the third-*Burger*  
14 prong is not satisfied; Plaintiffs' motion is **granted in part**, and  
15 Defendants' motion is **denied in part**.

16           f. *Conclusion*

17           Similar to the Ninth Circuit in *Rush*, 756 F.2d at 721, the Court  
18 finds, even though a warrantless inspection of a family child care home  
19 may not necessarily violate the Fourth Amendment, RCW 74.15.030(7) and  
20 74.15.080 and WAC 170-296-0450(2) and 170-296-0520(8) are overbroad  
21 because they do not carefully limit the time or place of the search.  
22 Therefore, these statutes and regulations provide State Defendants with  
23 unconstitutionally overbroad search and seizure authority, which is not  
24 permitted by the pervasively-regulated business exception. Given the  
25  
26

1 existence of a severance clause,<sup>10</sup> this conclusion does not affect other  
2 portions of the Washington's child care regulatory scheme.

3       5.   Special Needs

4       In their Reply to their Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Re:  
5 Injunctive Relief, State Defendants included a "special needs" warrant  
6 exception argument. Because this argument goes to the lawfulness of the  
7 searches and seizures, the Court addresses it here. The special needs  
8 exception to the warrant requirement applies when "specific needs, beyond  
9 the normal need for law enforcement, make the warrant and probable-cause  
10 requirement impracticable." *Sanchez v. San Diego*, 464 F.3d 916, 925 (9th  
11 Cir. 2006) (quoting *Griffin v. Wisconsin*, 483 U.S. 868, 873 (1987)). To  
12 determine whether a special need exists, there is a two-pronged analysis:  
13 (1) whether the government has articulated a valid special need and (2)  
14 whether the proposed administrative search is justified in light of that  
15 articulated special need." *Id.*

16       While recognizing the importance of unannounced inspections of day  
17 cares, the Court finds there is no special need making the warrant  
18 requirement impracticable. Defendants did not assert or provide any  
19 evidence that the instant searches and seizures were conducted in order  
20 to ensure that the children were receiving appropriate/safe care; rather  
21 the purpose of the investigations was to discover whether overbilling was  
22

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23  
24       <sup>10</sup> "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or  
25 circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application  
26 of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected," RCW  
43.215.906.

1 occurring which is not a special needs exception to the warrant  
2 requirement.

3 6. Reasonableness

4 Because the Court finds a search and seizure occurred and no  
5 exception to the warrant requirement applies, a warrant was required in  
6 order to comply with the Fourth Amendment, absent a finding that the  
7 search and seizure were otherwise reasonable. Although the factors  
8 utilized in *Wyman, Commissioner of New York Department of Social Services*  
9 *v. James*, 400 U.S. 309, 318-23 (1971), are useful to this Court when  
10 conducting the reasonableness analysis, the Court concludes *Wyman* does  
11 not control; the facts of this case are clearly different than those that  
12 were before the Supreme Court in *Wyman*. A few of *Wyman's* reasonableness  
13 considerations do apply, such as (1) the public's interest in ensuring  
14 that a child's needs are met, (2) the agency and the public have an  
15 interest in ensuring that the funds are being used appropriately, and (3)  
16 a home visit is an integral part of the child care system to ensure that  
17 the prior two interests are being met. However, here, Plaintiffs  
18 presented sufficient evidence to establish the existence of genuine  
19 issues of material fact as to whether the purpose of the visits was to  
20 "snoop" and whether the visits dealt with investigating suspected crimes.  
21 In fact, Mr. Bumford, the DFI director, stated the purpose of the visits  
22 was to determine whether these providers were billing for children not  
23 present - a fraud. (Ct. Rec. 338 Ex. 1 at 79.) In addition, DFI Deputy  
24 Directory Robin Clawson testified she believed the investigators would  
25 take the original records with them (Ct. Rec. 338: Ex. 7 at 53); and DFI  
26 Investigator Mr. Hoezee told providers that he had a court order to take

1 the originals (Ct. Rec. 338 Ex. 9 at 61). Similarly, one of the INS  
2 agents who served as an interpreter disclosed that he likely used the  
3 phrases "court order" or "state order" to describe the subpoena duces  
4 tecum. (Ct. Rec. 338 Ex. 12 at 38.) These facts, along with DFI  
5 investigator Mr. Vargas' disclosure that he did not translate the entire  
6 subpoena to the providers (Ct. Rec. 338 Ex. 10 at 113) are sufficient to  
7 create a genuine issue of material fact as to the reasonableness of these  
8 visits. Additionally, Plaintiffs also submitted declarations from the  
9 providers indicating that the providers understood that the investigators  
10 had court permission to seize both immigration/citizenship records and  
11 child care records. (See e.g. Ct. Rec. 201: Decl. Bertha Mendoza.) The  
12 evidence submitted by Plaintiffs also creates genuine issues of material  
13 fact as to whether the searches and seizures were reasonable; State  
14 Defendants' motion is **denied in part**.

15 7. Summary

16 As explained above, the Court finds Plaintiffs had a legitimate  
17 expectation of privacy in their home and in the business records they  
18 were required to keep. Accordingly, the Court finds under the facts  
19 presented by Plaintiffs that a search and seizure occurred and that  
20 genuine issues of material fact exist as to whether Plaintiffs consented  
21 to such searches and seizures. Furthermore, if the trier of fact finds  
22 the search and seizures unreasonable, the Court concludes a warrant was  
23 required because neither the special needs exception nor the pervasively-  
24 regulated business exception to the warrant requirement applies. The  
25 pervasively-regulated business exception does not apply because  
26 Washington's child care regulatory scheme fails to set forth sufficient



1 time and place restrictions. Yet, the Court finds Plaintiffs lacked  
2 standing to challenge the constitutionality of RCW 74.15.050(2) and  
3 74.15.060(1), and further finds that WAC 388-296-0450 is constitutional.  
4 Plaintiffs' request to enjoin the State of Washington from conducting  
5 warrantless inspections of child care homes is held in abeyance until  
6 February 16, 2007. For these reasons, Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial  
7 Summary Judgment Declaring RCW 74.15.030, 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1),  
8 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0450, 388-296-0520 Unconstitutional is granted  
9 in part, denied in part, and held in abeyance in part; the State  
10 Defendants' Cross Motion for Partial Summary Judgment is granted in part  
11 and denied in part.

12 **B. State Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Dismissing**  
13 **Plaintiffs' Requests for Permanent Injunctive Relief (Ct. Rec. 254)**

14 State Defendants ask the Court to dismiss the below-listed *Fernandez*  
15 Plaintiffs' requests for injunctive relief on the grounds that Plaintiffs  
16 failed to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d) and to  
17 establish entitlement to such injunctive relief.

18 1. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)

19 In *Fernandez* Plaintiffs' Third Amended Complaint Prayer for Relief  
20 No. 6, they request injunctive relief requiring State Defendants to  
21 comply with "Article 1, § 7 of the Washington State Constitution the  
22 [sic] Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States  
23 Constitution." The Court concludes Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)  
24 does not require Plaintiff to plead this claim for relief with more  
25 specificity given that Rule 65(d) applies to the form and scope of the  
26 order. See also WRIGHT, MILLER & KANE, FEDERAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE: CIVIL 2d

1 § 2955 at 328-329 (2d ed. 1995). Therefore, the Court **denies** State  
2 Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiffs' Prayer for Relief No. 6.

3 2. Request No. 12: prohibiting Defendants "from investigating  
4 immigration matters family [sic] child care providers and their  
5 family members"

6 Defendants ask the Court to dismiss this request for injunctive  
7 relief on the grounds that the term "immigration matters" is vague and  
8 overly broad and because information about a person's immigration status  
9 may be of assistance in learning the identity of that person and their  
10 criminal history. The Court denies State Defendants' motion finding that  
11 at this stage the State Defendants failed to adequately explain why they  
12 need to know the immigration status of an applicant, or the applicant's  
13 staff and family, in order to determine whether to grant a child day care  
14 license. Defendants have not cited to any regulation requiring  
15 disclosure of immigration status in order to be approved for licensure,  
16 other than if the provider is to receive subsidized payments. DSHS does  
17 need to determine the individual's criminal history; however, State  
18 Defendants did not adequately explain why access to immigration status  
19 is necessary to determine one's criminal history. Therefore, The Court  
20 **denies** Defendants' motion to dismiss injunction request no. 12.

21 3. Requests **No. 10:** prohibiting non-DSHS law enforcement persons  
22 from accompanying DSHS staff on criminal investigations of  
23 family child care involving searches and seizures without a  
24 warrant; **No. 9 (in part):** requiring the State Defendants to  
25 advise licensed family child care providers of their right to  
26 counsel; and **No. 11:** requiring the State Defendants to  
translate "crucial legal documents" into the primary language  
of LEP family child care providers

State Defendants ask the Court to dismiss the above requests for  
injunctive relief. In their response, *Fernandez* Plaintiffs ask the Court  
to dismiss these requests under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a).

1 This request was later followed up by a specific Motion for Voluntary  
2 Dismissal of Three Injunctive Relief Claims (**Ct. Rec. 403**).

3 Although the Court finds it would create a clearer record if  
4 Plaintiff was given leave to voluntarily dismiss these three claims for  
5 injunctive relief, the case law makes clear that Federal Rule of Civil  
6 Procedure 41(a) is to be used only when the entire "action," i.e.  
7 lawsuit, is to be dismissed or when all claims against a particular  
8 Defendant are being dismissed. Here, Plaintiffs are not seeking to  
9 dismiss the entire action or all of the claims against a particular  
10 Defendant, but rather just seek to dismiss a handful of claims;  
11 therefore, Rule 41(a) is inapplicable. Accordingly, the Court construes  
12 Plaintiff's motion as a Motion to Amend the Complaint pursuant to Federal  
13 Rule of Civil Procedure 15. See *Gronholz v. Sears, Roebuck and Co.*, 836  
14 F.2d 515, 518 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *SL Waber, Inc. v. Am. Power Conversion*  
15 *Corp.*, 135 F. Supp. 2d 521 (D.N.J. 1999). So construed, the Court grants  
16 Plaintiffs' motion and gives Plaintiffs' two weeks from entry of this  
17 Order in which to file the Amended Complaint which removes these three  
18 injunctive relief claims. The Court dispenses with the need of  
19 Defendants to file an answer to this amended complaint. Because  
20 Plaintiff will file an Amended Complaint removing these three injunctive  
21 relief requests, State Defendant's motion is **denied as moot in part**.

22 4. Request No. 9 (in part): requiring the State Defendants to  
23 advise licensed family child care providers of their  
opportunity to quash or limit a subpoena duces tecum

24 The Court **denies** Defendant's motion to dismiss this request at this  
25 stage.

1        5.    Request No. 8: prohibiting the State Defendant from demanding  
2            immediate production and removal of original documents from  
3            licensed family home child care providers without a warrant

4        State Defendants submit that RCW 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0520 both  
5        require a family home provider to allow DSHS to inspect and permit access  
6        to business records and reports required by statute/regulation. Under  
7        the terms of these provisions, DSHS clearly had the authority to demand  
8        inspection of the documents without a warrant so long as the  
9        administrative inspection was reasonable. See *Dow Chemical v. US By &*  
10       *Through Burford*, 749 F.2d 307, 311 (6th Cir. 1984). However, these  
11       provisions did not give DSHS the authority to require *removal and*  
12       *retention* of the original documents. The Court disagrees with  
13       Defendant's interpretation of "access" in RCW 74.15.080 because this  
14       statute indicates that "access" is allowed to determine whether there is  
15       compliance with the child care regulations. The child care regulations  
16       require the day care provider to have the required records *at the*  
17       *facility*. See WAC 288-296-0520. Therefore, allowing DSHS to take the  
18       original records off the premises would be inconsistent with this  
19       regulation and would in fact place the provider in a "catch 22" of  
20       violating the requirement of "access" to inspection or the record-keeping  
21       requirements. Accordingly, at this stage the Court **denies** Defendant's  
22       motion to dismiss Request No. 8.

23       6.    Request No. 7: prohibiting the State Defendants from demanding  
24            immediate entry into licensed family home child care providers  
25            business without a warrant

26        As explained above, the Court finds Washington's current child care  
regulatory scheme fails to sufficiently place a time limit on when State

1 Defendants can demand entry into a day care; accordingly, the Court  
2 **denies** State Defendants' motion to dismiss Request No. 7.

3 7. Summary

4 State Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Dismissing  
5 Plaintiffs' Requests for Permanent Injunctive Relief (Ct. Rec. 254) is  
6 **denied in part and denied as moot in part**; the Court construes *Fernandez*  
7 Plaintiffs' Motion for Voluntary Dismissal of Three Injunctive Relief  
8 Claims (Ct. Rec. 403) as a Motion to Amend Complaint and **grants** such  
9 construed motion.

10 **E. State Defendants' Second Motion for Summary Judgment (Ct. Rec. 249)**

11 State Defendants ask the Court to rule on a number of issues through  
12 this motion. Plaintiffs in large measure oppose the motion. The Court  
13 addresses each of the issues below.

14 1. 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and Qualified Immunity

15 State Defendants contend they are entitled to summary judgment as  
16 to Plaintiffs' 42 U.S.C. § 1983 cause of action because they did not  
17 violate the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs and because they are  
18 entitled to qualified immunity. Section 1983 is a remedial statute which  
19 provides an avenue of redress to persons injured by the actions of  
20 government which violate federal constitutional rights. The statute  
21 states in pertinent part:

22 Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance,  
23 regulation, custom, or usage, or any State or Territory or the  
24 District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any  
25 citizen of the United States or other person within the  
26 jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights,  
privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws,  
shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit  
in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

1 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In order to successfully bring such a cause of action,  
2 a plaintiff must demonstrate: (1) a person deprived the plaintiff of a  
3 federal constitutional or statutory right and (2) that person acted under  
4 color of state law. *Wood v. Ostrander*, 879 F.2d 583, 587 (9th Cir.  
5 1989). As discussed above, the Court finds a genuine issue of material  
6 fact exists as to whether Plaintiffs were deprived of their Fourth  
7 Amendment rights, and it appears undisputed that Defendants were acting  
8 under color of law. Therefore, Plaintiffs § 1983 cause of action  
9 survives summary judgment unless State Defendants can show they are  
10 entitled to qualified immunity.

11 A defendant can assert the defense of qualified immunity to be  
12 shielded from personal liability under § 1983. *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*,  
13 457 U.S. 800 (1982); *Conn v. Gabbert*, 526 U.S. 286, 290 (1999); *Diruzza*  
14 *v. County of Tehama*, 206 F.3d 1304 (9th Cir. 2000); *Thompson v. Souza*,  
15 111 F.3d 694, 698 (9th Cir. 1997); *Grossman v. City of Portland*, 33 F.3d  
16 1200, 1210 (9th Cir. 1994). The Ninth Circuit stated in *Ceballos v.*  
17 *Garcetti*, 361 F.3d 1168, 1172 (9th Cir. 2004):

18 When considering a defendant's motion for summary judgment on  
19 the ground of qualified immunity, we must first determine  
20 whether, when the facts are taken in the light most favorable  
21 to the plaintiff and the inferences are drawn in his favor as  
22 well, these facts and inferences establish that the official's  
23 conduct violated a constitutional right. *Saucier v. Katz*, 533  
24 U.S. 194 (2001). If so, we must next consider whether the  
right was clearly established at the time of the alleged  
improper act. If the right was clearly established, we ask  
finally whether despite this fact, the official's  
unconstitutional conduct constituted a reasonable mistake of  
fact or law. Then, unless the constitutional error is excused  
on that ground, summary judgment must be denied.

25 *Id.* (citations omitted).  
26

1 A law is clearly established if "a reasonable official would  
2 understand that what he is doing violates that right," *Jensen v. City of*  
3 *Oxnard*, 145 F.3d 1078, 1085 (9th Cir. 1998); in other words, government  
4 officials are insulated from liability unless they are "plainly  
5 incompetent" or "knowingly violate the law." *Knox v. S.W. Airlines*, 124  
6 F.3d 1103, 1107 (9th Cir. 1997). This law must be clearly established  
7 at the time of defendant's acts. *Conn v. Gabbert*, 526 U.S. 286, 290  
8 (1999); *Mendoza v. Block*, 27 F.3d 1357, 1361 (9th Cir. 1994). The  
9 Supreme Court indicated a certain degree of predictability is required,  
10 yet "[t]his is not to say that an official action is protected by  
11 qualified immunity unless the very action in question has previously been  
12 held unlawful . . . but it is to say that in the light of pre-existing  
13 law the unlawfulness must be apparent." *Anderson v. Creighton*, 493 U.S.  
14 635, 640 (1987) (citations omitted). "[W]hen the defendant's conduct is  
15 so patently violative of the constitutional right that reasonable  
16 officials would know without guidance from the courts' that the action  
17 was unconstitutional, closely analogous pre-existing case law is not  
18 required to show that the law is clearly establish." *Mendoza v. Block*,  
19 27 F.3d 1357, 1361 (9th Cir. 1994) (quoting *Casteel v. Pieschek*, 3 F.3d  
20 1050, 1053 (7th Cir. 1993). In addition to looking at case law to  
21 determine whether the law governing conduct is clearly established,  
22 statutory and administrative procedures also serve as law. *Babcock v.*  
23 *Wash.*, 116 Wash. 2d 596, 618-19 (1991).

24 The alleged conduct includes entering residences in order to conduct  
25 a fraud investigation by obtaining immigration and day care records.  
26 State Defendants submit they were allowed to engage in such conduct under

1 a reasonable interpretation of RCW 74.15.080. However, the Court finds  
2 a reasonable official should have known that the authority granted by  
3 this statute was overbroad due to the principles highlighted in *Rush v.*  
4 *Obledo*, 756 F.2d 713, 717 (9th Cir. 1985), and that converting an  
5 administrative subpoena into an all-purpose tool to conduct a criminal  
6 investigation violated clearly established Fourth Amendment  
7 jurisprudence. See *DeBoer v. Pennington*, 206 F.3d 857 (9th Cir. 2000);  
8 *Alexander v. City & County of San Francisco*, 29 F.3d 1355, 1361 (9th Cir.  
9 1994); see also *Golden Day Schs., Inc. v. Pirillo*, 118 F. Supp. 2d 1037,  
10 1046-47 (C.D. Cal. 2000). Consistent with this conclusion, the Court  
11 **denies** James Ditzel, Israel Vargas, Robin Clawson, John Bumford, and  
12 Michael Coyne's qualified immunity requests at this stage.

13 However, the Court grants qualified immunity to DFI investigators'  
14 Kris Boness, Dick Hoezee, and Don Smith. During a May 2002 briefing held  
15 with INS agents and DFI agents, Kris Boness asked Mr. Ditzel whether a  
16 warrant was needed; Mr. Ditzel stated no. (Boness Decl. ¶ 3.) Mr.  
17 Hoezee and Mr. Smith were present during this briefing. Given this  
18 inquiry, the Court finds these three investigators, as subordinates, are  
19 entitled to qualified immunity. See *Ramirez v. Butte-Silver Bow County*,  
20 298 F.3d 1022, 1027-28 (9th Cir. 2002); *Mendocino Env'tl. Ctr. v.*  
21 *Mendocino County*, 192 F.3d 1282, 1293 n.16 (9th Cir. 1999). The Court  
22 also finds, on the current record, that Kenneth Harden is entitled to  
23 qualified immunity. Accordingly, State Defendants' motion is **granted in**  
24 **part.**



1           2.   Compensatory and/or Punitive Damages

2           State Defendants ask the Court to dismiss Plaintiffs' compensatory  
3 and punitive damages claims against DSHS, Robin Arnold-Williams, Kennith  
4 Harden, John Bumford, and Michael Coyne in their official capacities on  
5 the grounds that these Defendants are immune from suit for money damages  
6 under the Eleventh Amendment. Recognizing that only *Fernandez* Plaintiffs,  
7 not the *De La O* Plaintiffs, are seeking such damages, the Court **grants**  
8 State Defendants' motion because neither a State or its officials acting  
9 in their official capacities are "persons" under § 1983. Accordingly,  
10 when defendants are acting in their official capacity they not liable for  
11 money damages. *C.N. v. Wolf*, 410 F. Supp. 2d 894, 904 (C.D. Cal. 2005).

12           3.   Tort Claims

13           State Defendants ask the Court to dismiss Plaintiffs' tort claims  
14 based upon the Washington Constitution. Plaintiffs clarify they do not  
15 bring state constitutional claims. Accordingly, the Court **denies as moot**  
16 State Defendants' motion in part.

17           4.   Discrimination Claims

18           After reviewing the submitted material, the Court denies Defendants'  
19 request to dismiss *Fernandez* Plaintiffs' Washington Law Against  
20 Discrimination cause of action, finding Plaintiffs presented sufficient  
21 evidence creating genuine issues of material fact as to whether State  
22 Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as a result of their race or  
23 national origin and whether Plaintiffs' protected status was a  
24 substantial factor causing the discrimination. Therefore, State  
25 Defendants' motion is **denied in part**.

26   ///

1        5.    Issues to be Heard in December

2        State Defendants also ask the Court to dismiss Plaintiffs' 42 U.S.C.  
3    § 1985 conspiracy claim and Plaintiffs' request for punitive damages  
4    against the individually-named Defendants. The Court will hear these  
5    issues on December 20, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Richland.

6        For the reasons given above, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

7        1.    Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment Declaring RCW  
8    74.15.030, 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), 74.15.080 and WAC §§ 388-296-0450,  
9    388-296-0520 Unconstitutional (**Ct. Rec. 116**) is **GRANTED IN PART** (RCW  
10   74.15.030 and 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-0520 are unconstitutionally  
11   overbroad), **DENIED IN PART** (Plaintiffs lack standing to challenge RCW §§  
12   74.15.050(2) and 74.15.060(1); WAC §§ 388-296-0450 is constitutional),  
13   **and HELD IN ABEYANCE IN PART until February 16, 2007** (injunction  
14   request).

15       2.    State Defendants' Cross Motion for Partial Summary Judgment  
16   (**Ct. Rec. 126**) is **GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART**.

17       4.    Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction of RCW  
18   74.15.030(7), 74.15.050(2), 74.15.060(1), 74.15.080 and WAC 388-296-  
19   0250(1), 388-295-0450(2), 388-296-0520(8) (**Ct. Rec. 198**) is **HELD IN**  
20   **ABEYANCE until February 16, 2007**.

21       5.    State Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment  
22   Dismissing Plaintiffs' Requests for Permanent Injunctive Relief (**Ct. Rec.**  
23   **254**) is **DENIED IN PART** (Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 in part, and 12) **and DENIED AS**  
24   **MOOT IN PART** (Nos. 9 in part, 10, and 11).

25       6.    *Fernandez* Plaintiffs' Motion for Voluntary Dismissal of Three  
26   Injunctive Relief Claims (**Ct. Rec. 403**) is **CONSTRUED** as a Motion to Amend

1 Complaint and **GRANTED**. Plaintiffs have **two weeks** from entry of this  
2 Order to file an Amended Complaint which removes these three injunctive  
3 relief claims; no other aspect of the Complaint shall be altered.  
4 Defendants need not file an answer to this Amended Complaint.

5 7. State Defendants' Second Motion for Summary Judgment (**Ct. Rec.**  
6 **249**) is **GRANTED IN PART** (subordinates and Mr. Harden granted qualified  
7 immunity; compensatory and punitive damages claims against individuals  
8 acting in official capacity), **RESET IN PART to December 20, 2006, at 1:30**  
9 **p.m.** (conspiracy and punitive damages), and **otherwise DENIED IN PART**.

10 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Executive is directed to file  
11 this Order and provide copies of this Order to counsel.

12 **DATED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006.

13  
14 S/ Edward F. Shea  
15 EDWARD F. SHEA  
United States District Judge

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